



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

SKOPJE • MACEDONIA



DCM Aggeler Closes Training on New Criminal Procedure Code



On December 14 the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors marked the completion of the initial basic training session on the new Criminal Procedure Code (CPC). This training event, organized cooperatively by the Academy, the U.S. Embassy in Skopje and the OSCE is part of the overall efforts of the country to prepare for new criminal procedures that will dramatically alter the way legal practitioners work in Macedonia. U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Brian Aggeler commended the trainers for their dedication and professionalism in training their peers over past two years. This project will continue for the next two years with advanced training of judges, prosecutors, investigators and attorneys on the new CPC.

Academy for Judges and Prosecutors

December 14, 2012

DCM Aggeler Remarks:

Academy Director (Aneta) Arnaudovska, President of the Supreme Court Justice Nedelkova, Supreme Court Justices Arslani and Saliu, President of the Judicial Council Zafirovska, President of the Prosecutorial Council Kizov, President of the Bar Janicevic, Ambassador Breth and Representatives of OSCE, distinguished judges, prosecutors, investigators, attorneys, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate you upon the completion of your basic training in the Criminal Procedure Code!

The CPC basic training program under the auspices of the Academy and supported by OPDAT and OSCE was a great success, mostly because of your dedication, with your busy schedules, in teaching your colleagues and passing on the knowledge you have gained through the years. We are here today to congratulate you on your success in training every prosecutor and judge and a significant number of attorneys and investigators, in the CPC. This is an enormous accomplishment, and you have just cause to be proud of yourselves and each other.

You know better than I how the new code will transform the criminal justice system in Macedonia from the traditional inquisitorial model, to one with many adversarial characteristics.

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The Government still must step up and provide the resources to support this more effective and efficient criminal justice system.

This process, and the desire to bring this new code on line as soon as possible, demonstrate a commitment to the rule of law essential for Macedonia's greater involvement with the European and international communities. And more importantly, having an effective and efficient criminal justice system strengthens the rule of law for the benefit of all citizens.

Through you as instructors, practitioners throughout Macedonia have learned the basic outlines of the new CPC, how it changes current law, and the new responsibilities of judges, prosecutors, defense attorney and inspectors. Now you are poised on the brink of the next adventure: training your colleagues in more advanced understanding and application of the law, its nuances, challenges and opportunities.

The U.S. Embassy support to this project through OPDAT is a continuation of the close cooperation and exceptional partnerships that OPDAT has established since its inception, particularly with OSCE and the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors. Together we have worked to plan seminars, create materials, teach seminars, and answer questions. You have continued your full-time jobs while teaching four- day seminars, including on weekends. It is not over. The American poet Robert Frost describes pausing a few minutes before continuing on with his journey. He gazes out, then concludes:

The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep.

We also have miles to go, but we do it together. During the past two years, you have formed close friendships with your teammates. You teach and work as a unit. You support each other. I know that will continue.

I salute your dedication to your colleagues, to your country, and to the rule of law. Congratulations!